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AN APPARENT ERUPTIVE VARIABLE STAR IN SCORPIUS

On objective-prism plates taken with the Curtis Schmidt telescope at the Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory, we note a 14th magnitude, strong emission-line star at $\alpha = 17^{\text{h}}40^{\text{m}}32^{\text{s}}.6$, $\delta = -36^{\circ}02'07''$ (1950), which appears to be previously unreported. The H α emission was exceedingly strong relative to the continuum in July 1967 and was still moderately strong in May 1968. On blue-sensitive plates, covering the period from June 11 to Aug. 4, 1967, the spectrum contained, in addition to the Balmer series, emission lines of [OIII] at $\lambda 5007$ (somewhat weaker than H β) and at $\lambda 4363$ (about equal to H γ), and a broad emission band in the $\lambda 4640-86$ region. The relative intensities of these features did not vary significantly over this two month interval. The hydrogen lines showed some evidence of broadening but not as much as would be seen in a fast nova. Conceivably, this might be a slow nova. Because of the crowded field, we are unable to positively identify the image of this star on the Palomar Sky Survey chart and thus cannot estimate the amplitude of the light variation. However, we have provided a chart showing the position of this object.

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